

Bishop John Carroll, the first Catholic bishop in the United States and the University's founder.

From that date forward, Georgetown's growth and that of our nation have been intertwined. I am proud that the University's federal charter—the second such charter approved by Congress after that of the U. S. Military Academy—was proposed in legislation introduced by one of the University's first students, Congressman William Gaston of North Carolina. As a Carolinian myself, I have to say, from the beginning, Georgetown was off on the right footing. It is fitting that the University's main lecture hall bears the name Gaston Hall.

Our school colors have roots deep in our nation's history as well. During the Civil War more than 1,000 Georgetown alumni served in both the Union and Confederate armies. The blue and the gray, then, reflect the divided allegiances of both students and alumni during that war.

Today, the student body is comprised of students from every state and from 141 nations around the globe.

I am heartened that Georgetown has remained true to the Roman Catholic and Jesuit values on which it was founded. The University prides itself as a place of vigorous dialogue. It pushes students to pursue lives enriched by research and scholarship. I am happy to say that, since my election to Congress, I have had several opportunities to explore some of the issues we are working on in the House of Representatives with faculty who have deep and valuable knowledge on these topics.

I was lucky to study at Georgetown under professors such as Madeline Albright and Fr. James Reddington. They made me think and challenge my assumptions. They helped me grow and shaped my subsequent career. Certainly, Georgetown's commitment to encouraging students to explore public service is reflected in its Mission Statement which ends with an admonition to those who have studied there "to be reflective lifelong learners, to be responsible and active participants in civic life and to live generously in service to others." It is not surprising then that, since William Gaston entered Congress in 1814, over 150 Georgetown alumni and faculty members have served in the U. S. Congress. Others have served as President, governors, cabinet secretaries, judges and as senior diplomats around the globe. Likewise, the University is equally proud of alumni who have gone on to be leaders in their communities in fields such as business, arts, health care or the law.

It is an honor to recognize Georgetown on this occasion of its 225th "birthday," but, more importantly, to wish my alma mater great progress in the centuries ahead.

HONORING CORPORAL SHERONDRA  
MCGEE BAILEY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable veteran, Mrs. Sherondra McGee Bailey. Mrs. Bailey has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in serving others.

Sherondra McGee Bailey is a resident of Vicksburg, Mississippi born on August 8, 1982 to Beverly Thomas and Patrick Pope in New Orleans, LA. She is the oldest of eleven children born to Beverly Thomas. She graduated from South Delta High School in 2000.

After High School Sherondra attended the University of Southern Mississippi where she met and married Brandon Bailey and to that union they have one son, Brayden Bailey.

Sherondra enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 2008. She graduated number two in her Meteorologist class. She was later stationed at the Barksdale Air Force Base located in Louisiana.

Sherondra is a devout member of Clark Chapel United Methodist Church in Cary, MS. She enjoys time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Sherondra McGee Bailey for her dedication to serving our great Country.

CONGRATULATING DONALD  
"DONNY" BYNUM AS THE 2014  
ALABAMA SUPERINTENDENT OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an exemplary public servant, Donald "Donny" Bynum, recipient of the distinguished 2014 Alabama Superintendent of the Year award.

A prime example of servant leadership, Superintendent Bynum has served for over 29 years as a teacher, coach, and administrator. He holds an AA Degree in School Administration plus a Master of Science in School Administration, both from Troy University in Dothan, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Troy University.

Prior to his tenure as the Superintendent of Dale County Schools, Mr. Bynum served as an Education Specialist with the Alabama Department of Education and in various capacities within the Dale County School System. Such positions included the Transportation Supervisor; Principal at G.W. Long Elementary School; and as the Assistant Principal at G.W. Long School.

Almost one year ago, the nation watched a terrifying situation emerge in Dale County, Alabama. The murder of a school bus driver, abduction of a five-year old student, and the prolonged hostage situation that ensued presented a unique challenge for all levels of state and local government. That was especially true for Dale County Schools, which was faced with the murder of an employee and the abduction of a student, all while the need to ensure the safety and stability of the schools was paramount. Superintendent Bynum handled this challenge with strength and grace, helping lead the students, parents, faculty and community through the tragedy. By all accounts, Dale County emerged stronger and more united than ever, thanks in large part to Superintendent Donny Bynum's leadership in this trying time.

Also active in the Dale County community, Superintendent Bynum is involved with the Dale County Children's Policy Council, Dale

County United Way Board of Directors, School Superintendents of Alabama Board of Directors District III President, and he and his wife Paula, a retired educator, are members of the Ozark Baptist Church. He and Paula have two children, Mason and Elizabeth.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Donny Bynum as the 2014 Alabama Superintendent of the Year. His exceptional moral character, experience, and dedication to the Alabama school system render him a qualified recipient of this honor. I am grateful for Bynum's service and proudly recognize his contributions to the betterment of the great State of Alabama.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House January 7–10, 2014, due to the death of my mother. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall No. 1 (Quorum call): Present; rollcall No. 2 (H.R. 724): "yea"; rollcall No. 3 (H.R. 3527): "yea"; rollcall No. 4 (H.R. 3628): "yea"; rollcall No. 5 (Previous Question): "yea"; rollcall No. 6 (Rule for H.R. 2279 and H.R. 3811): "yea"; rollcall No. 7 (Sinema Amendment to H.R. 2279): "nay"; rollcall No. 8 (Tonko Amendment to H.R. 2279): "nay"; rollcall No. 9 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 2279): "nay"; rollcall No. 10 (Passage of H.R. 2279): "yea"; rollcall No. 11 (Passage of H.R. 3811): "yea."

CONGRATULATING MARY KAY  
RUMMEL

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mary Kay Rummel, a community poet, who was inaugurated on January 10, 2014 as the first Poet Laureate of Ventura County.

Nominated by the Ventura County Arts Council, Mary was ultimately selected as the county's first laureateship for her long and celebrated career as a poet in the region. In conjunction with the title of Poet Laureate, Mary will also serve a two year position as official poet and ambassador to the community, a position that is dedicated to putting a spotlight on poetry and expanding the audiences of the literary arts in the area.

Mary's work has been described as "luminous meditations on the nature of love in which imagery and the beauty of language shine." Her literary work will serve to promote, encourage and inspire community members to develop their own creative interests.

Over the last 35 years, more than 350 of Mary's poems have appeared in national and international literary journals and anthologies. Throughout her career, she has also received over a dozen poetry awards that range from local accolades to multiple nominations for the highly prestigious Pushcart Prize.

Beyond her poetry career, and her duties as a wife, mother of three and a grandmother,